

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 311122
ORIGIN SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ARA-06 /011 R

DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:AAGISE:JFM
APPROVED BY SCA:SCS:AAGISE
ARA/MEX:JDREYFUSS (PHONE)
SCA:JWDEWITT

-----272049Z 003324 /67

O 272033Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE
ZATLAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 311122

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: TRAVEL ADVISORY STATE OF SINALOA

REF: MEXICO 16091 AND MAZATLAN 542 AND 543.

1. WITH THE ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAZATLAN'S 542 AND 543 INCLUDING THE MURDER OF JOHN GHARST AND HIS DAUGHTER LORALEE BROWN, PLUS THE ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS DAY ROBBERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CULIACAN OF MR. LUCARELLI AND MISS ROBERTS (REPORTED IN GISE-MATTHEWS TELCON DECEMBER 27) DEPARTMENT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE TRAVEL ADVISORY AGAINST TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE IN OR THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA.

2. TEXT OF TRAVEL ADVISORY IS REPORTED BELOW AND INCLUDES CHANGES SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY IN REFTEL EXCEPT FOR LAST TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 311122

SENTENCES OF PARAGRAPH 1 WHICH INDICATES THAT NOW THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MURDERS: ONE ON HIGHWAY 15 (CASE OF JOSEPH LEONARD DAY, SEE MAZATLAN'S 462 AND 494) AND THE GHARST-BROWN MURDERS ON DECEMBER 25. TRAVEL ADVISORY WILL BE RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT'S PRESS OFFICE LATE THIS AFTERNOON.

3. IN ADVISING APPROPRIATE MEXICAN OFFICIALS OF OUR ACTION EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ALSO NOTIFY SR. ROSSELL, SECRETARY OF TOURISM TELEPHONE 5213638 OR 5213620. SR. ROSSELL HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN WASHINGTON, D. C. AND EXPRESSED TO DEPT. HIS UNHAPPINESS OVER AAA LETTER.

4. "TRAVEL ADVISORY STATE OF SINALOA, MEXICO. WHILE LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS HAVE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE VACATIONS IN MEXICO AND CAN EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE TRADITIONAL MEXICAN HOSPITALITY, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN MOTORISTS TRAVELING SPECIFICALLY IN OR THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA IN WESTERN MEXICO. SINCE MAY 1976 THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN FIFTEEN SEPARATE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE HIGHWAY ROBBERY OF AMERICAN TRAVELERS BY ARMED BANDITS MOSTLY ON MEXICAN HIGHWAY 15 IN THE STATE OF SINALOA NEAR THE CITY OF CULIACAN. THE BANDITS HAVE GENERALLY TAKEN ALL OF THE MOTORISTS' POSSESSIONS, INCLUDING THEIR VEHICLES. FURTHER, ONE AMERICAN WAS FOUND MURDERED ON HIGHWAY 15 AND TWO WERE MURDERED WHILE TRAVELING ON THE DURANGO-MAZATLAN HIGHWAY. IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS TWO AMERICAN MOTORISTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO IS CONCERNED WITH THE SITUATION. AS A RESULT MEXICAN ARMY UNITS HAVE BEEN PATROLLING HIGHWAY 15 IN SINALOA SINCE DECEMBER 8 AND MAY BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION. IN THE MEANTIME HOWEVER BECAUSE OF THESE CONTINUING INCIDENTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISES AMERICANS AGAINST TRAVEL BY MOTOR VEHICLE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 311122

OR THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA. THIS CONDITION IS CONFINED TO THE STATE OF SINALOA AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO AFFECT TRAVEL IN THE REST OF MEXICO." ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE311122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCS:AAGISE:JFM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-0251
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761212/aaaaakcm.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 16091, 77 MAZATLAN 542
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL ADVISORY STATE OF SINALOA
TAGS: CASC
To: MEXICO MAZATLAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006